

Press Release
Harrisonburg Fire Department
101 North Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22802

For Immediate Release – Residential Structure Fire

Date: December 20, 2012

Contact: Captain Arthur Miller 432-7703

Date of Occurrence: December 19, 2012

Time of Occurrence: 11:43 p.m.

General Location/Address of Occurrence: 30 Kratzer Avenue

Property Damaged: Soybean meal feed ingredient

Injuries Sustained: None

Narrative : On December 19, 2012 at 11:43 p.m. the Harrisonburg Fire Department responded to the Cargill Feed mill at 30 Kratzer Avenue for a report of a fire in a vertical feed bin that contained 184 tons of soybean meal.

Upon arrival, firefighters were directed to the third floor of the facility by feed mill staff, where the firefighters observed smoke coming from the uppermost access portal to the feed bin. Firefighters used a mixture of firefighting foam and water to extinguish the fire, which was contained to the actual feed product in the bin.

Investigators determined the cause of the fire to be errant hot materials falling onto the feed from welding, which took place almost 12 hours prior. The fire smoldered undetected despite an extended fire watch by feed mill personnel after the welding operation concluded.

The value of the soybean meal is approximately \$92,000. The fire and fire suppression efforts rendered most of that feed unusable.

Fires in feed mills are particularly dangerous due to the potential of explosive dusts being suspended in the air. A link to a study referenced by the National Fire Protection Association is provided below.

http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/pdf/foundation%20proceedings/jim_maness.pdf

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 50,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov. The Harrisonburg Fire Department is rated Fire Class 3 out of a 1 to 10 ranking by the Insurance Service Organization (ISO). In the nation only 3.6% of fire departments have received a Class 3 rating. More information about the Harrisonburg Fire Department is online at www.harrisonburgfire.org and on Twitter @HFDVA.

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